



Message from the Garrison Commander



In September of 2002, we brought together Fort Carson personnel with Department of the Army and subordinate headquarter representatives, personnel from other local military installations, civic leaders, members of the local and regulatory communities, and the public to discuss shared resources and plan for their wise use. At that time, 25-year goals were established to address the human and natural resource challenges that face Fort Carson and surrounding communities. Twelve aggressive goals were identified, and I challenged the attendees to develop Five-Year Plans, identifying initiatives, steps and resources for each goal. This document is the fulfillment of that challenge.

The methods described in this Five-Year Plan to meet Fort Carson's sustainability goals will be the first steps in a dynamic process. Be diligent and organize your time and resources to support the Installation's Sustainability goals and Five-Year Objectives. Special sustainability funding will not be likely. We must begin immediately to program and budget for projects that support sustainability. Projects and activities incorporating sustainable elements and a life cycle payback of five years or less will be given top priority. Other projects related to this plan, especially those that demonstrate leadership, environmental stewardship, partnership and community outreach will also be given priority.

The Installation's mission includes training, mobilizing, deploying and sustaining the combat-ready, multi-component, integrated forces of the 7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson. Providing a caring environment in a climate of cooperation and partnership with civilian and military neighbors is part of that mission. The long-term accomplishment of this mission is supported by the goals of this Sustainability Five-Year Plan. Due to ever-increasing growth in Colorado, decreasing military budgets, changing technologies, and greater environmental restrictions, issues that will affect this installation in 25 years must be addressed now by applying the principles of sustainability in all of our decisions and actions. Through solid planning and adherence to The Natural Step system conditions, we may avoid issues that have the potential to impede our mission in the future.

The real work begins now, with each one of us responsible for the future. We will track, publish, and hold ourselves accountable for progress in accordance with this Sustainability Plan.


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Garrison Commander